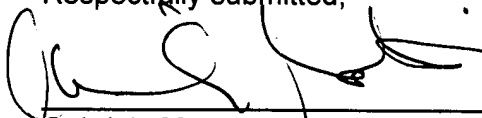


REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26 are amended. This amendment is submitted to cancel claims in order to reduce the filing fee. There is no new matter added, and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested. This application contains a Sequence Listing. Applicants enclose a computer-readable form of the Sequence Listing. The content of the paper copy of the Sequence Listing and of the computer readable form is the same.

The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriela Materassi', is written over a horizontal line.

Date: December 9, 2005

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